

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CHILDREN'S NETWORK**

**Policy Council Minutes
February 27, 2002**

Members/Representatives Present:

- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Rudy Lopez, Director, Department of Behavioral Health
- Tom Moore, Deputy Director, Department of Children's Services
- Julian Weaver, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Ray Wingerd, Probation Department
- Jeff Broyde, Public Defender's Office
- Clark Morrow, SBSD
- Roberta York, Preschool Services
- Gary Paytas, Probation Department
- Cory Nelsen, Child Support Services
- Rita Downs, DBH – CSOC
- Karen Bell, DA – Juvenile Division
- Judy Steppins, San Bernardino County Library
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Mary Lynn Clark, Director, Inland Regional Center
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Jerry Farber,
- Dennis Hansberger, 3rd District Honorable Board of Supervisor
- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Patricia Nickols, Director of
- Bonnie O'Connor, Executive Director of Children's Fund
- Rebecca Stratford, Children's Fund
- Thomas Prendergast, M.D., Department of Public Health
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Don Larkin, Children and Families Commission
- Ruth Stringer, County Counsel
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Honorable Dennis Hansberger and convened the meeting in the Citrus Room, Fifth Floor, County Government Center. Judge Garza was not able to attend the meeting.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Dennis Hansberger started the meeting and welcomed those present and self-introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

3.0 Approval of January 23, 2002 Minutes

No changes or corrections were made to the minutes. Carol Anselmi made a motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2002. Tom Prendergast, M.D. seconded the motion.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children' Fund Report

Bonnie O'Connor reported on the following activities:

- Around 6 months ago Children's Fund Board received proposals from some CBOs for some upfront funding of some exciting programs. The Children's Fund Board allotted \$5,000 per Supervisorial district in the county for a total of \$25,000. The Children's Fund Board has gone out to do some site visits and will share next month that they have decided to fund (5 winners).
- Bonnie spoke about working with Change of Life in Orange County to assist young man purchase tools to work in his profession, and making this man more marketable. This young man now is working, has an apartment with his wife and child, and got off welfare.
- Work is being done on the new web site.
- March 23 and March 24 home tour in the Westend.
- Coming up soon the Treads for Thread a motorcycle race to raise money.

Rebecca Stafford reported on the duck race:

- Adoption forms are now available.
- This year the race will be on April 27th at the Guasti Park in conjunction with Children's Network Family Celebration picnics and Child Abuse Prevention month.
- This year there is the All-American Duck, the quack combat child abuse duck with hiking boots, and the flush duck. You can buy an anniversary package of 12 ducks for \$50; and a corporate sponsorship of \$500 for 125 ducks.

- Teams are encouraged to adopt the most ducks. There will be a luncheon on March 11th in the Joshua Room at 11:30 a.m.; one team member from each team is encouraged to attend. More information will go out soon.
- This year starting on March 15th you will be able to order ducks online.
- The grand prize this year is a PT Cruiser.

4.2 CSOC Update

This item will become a regular informational item. Kent Paxton referred everyone to the handouts in their packets that explain further details about the infrastructure of CSOC (Children's System of Care) and MDT (Multidisciplinary Team). The pyramid diagram explains how a case is handled from discussions staff to staff to eventually high-end care.

It was decided the change the name of the MDTs to Family Preservation Councils as multiple agencies are working together to get the best treatment for these children possible and to reduce expensive placements if not needed. The ICP (Interagency Placement Council) still will triage the high level of care cases. Rudy Lopez has approved a full-time SSP position to be staffed in Kent Paxton's office. This SSP will be funded by Department of Behavioral Health and will be hired from DCS (Department of Children's Services). This full-time person will work closely with DCS, Public Health, Probation, DBH, County schools, and other agencies to assist these high-risk families with placement needs. The main goal will be to stabilize the placements of children and not move them to higher level of placements if needed or move them back home when appropriate. Rudy Lopez reported that DBH is working on a more integrated community approach and some services to be de-centralized soon. The IPC will still remain centralized. Rita Downs stated they are in the last stages of getting the database on the computer. Rudy sees a lot more decisions to be made by service providers and more strategies to follow.

4.3 School Linked Services/County Meeting

Kent Paxton and Julian Weaver met a few weeks ago on mapping out school aged services for children on campuses. It was mentioned that there is currently Probation counselors on some campuses now through the Operation Cleansweep. It was decided that all parties need to be brought together and form a matrix that shows phone numbers, short descriptions, and contact people.

This matrix would be a resource list to be used by various school personnel and would be very beneficial to match up services for children. Karen Bell asked to be included in the group. Kent and Julian agreed to set up a meeting for further discussion.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Child Abuse Prevention Month

Discussion and action is required to forward a Resolution to the Board of Supervisors to Declare April, 2002, Child Abuse Prevention Month

Susan Melanson reported on the following activities for April, Child Abuse Prevention Month:

- Still accepting nominations for outstanding individuals who provide services to our youth in the county. Will accept final nominations not later than this week, still need a nomination of a foster parent from the 5th district.
- This year's nomination committee will comprise of last years' nominees. They will be making their selections on March 8th.
- The nominees will be honored at the Annual Shine the Light Breakfast on April 4th at the Radisson in San Bernardino.
- Each year the breakfast is moved to a location in another supervisory district.
- The cost of a ticket to the breakfast has doubled this year to \$10 per person. Tickets are available today.
- The Family Celebration events are on April 27th at Mojave Narrows and Guasti parks and on April 28th At the Yucaipa Regional park.
- Partnerships are still needed for the Family Celebration events because; the bottom line budget is \$89,000, which doesn't go too far without involvement from the community.
- You will find in your packet a copy of the resolution declaring Child Abuse Prevention Month as April. The resolution will go before the Board of Supervisors on March 26th. After the Board session, there will be a flag raising ceremony everyone is invited to.
- The resolution was accepted to be presented to the Board of Supervisors with no objection.
- Lots of interest is coming from the community already about the Drowning Prevention campaign.

5.2 Policy Council Executive Committee

Discussion and action is requested to approve the Policy Council Executive Committee for 2002 to include:

Convener: Judge Donna Garza

Vice Convener: Supervisor Dennis Hansberger

Second Vice Convener: Carol Anselmi

Kent Paxton read the proposed Policy Council Executive Committee. The Policy Council Executive Committee was approved. The motion was approved by Ray Wingerd and seconded by Gary Paytas.

6.0 Other

There was some discussion about Level 14 treatment beds in this county. Rita Downs reported that the Victor Treatment Center who is Level 14 is closing. Due to this closing, there will be six children to move back home and four to find another Level 14 placement for. The reason for closure is that Victor Treatment Center want to focus more on quality services, wraparound, outpatient services, etc. in their existing facility. It was also mentioned that the children were only attending north valley schools.

Paula Roby stated that the group home that takes care of Level 14 treatment for children must be able to handle a very disturbed population of children that have specific mental health and some family preservation problems. She also mentioned that for the past two years Department of Behavioral Health has been collecting needs assessments. Paula further mentioned that it has been difficult for this county, because the children have to be spread out for their Level 14 placements. Paula feels that you really need to have the right place to work closely with this core population. She mentioned that it is the right time to address the need of Level 14 placements with the interagency partners to approach the gaps in service.

Honorable Dennis Hansberger asked the group, specifically Paula Roby what she would like to see in an ideal created placement? Paula thinks a dream facility would have: lots of large rooms; offer several levels of residential care to accommodate families; campus model with more than one option; contracts with providers to partner in the delivery of services; keep the children to prepare them for the community; and contracts could be renegotiated each year with the providers to fit the needs of the community. Julian Weaver mentioned that County Schools do need to be involved as well to design a Special Education program for these children placed in Level 14 care.

Ray Wingerd mentioned that he felt the Probation Department could definitely use at least 18 beds for level 14 placements, but senses the need could be bigger. Tom Moore mentioned on behalf of DCS that there are also children who have dually diagnosed medical and mental problems as well. Tom mentioned that currently DCS has a child placed in Florida costing \$500 a day for treatment not provided in this county.

Honorable Dennis Hansberger asked the group the question, " If you could see a facility like Paula mentioned above, where would you see it located and what type of services would be needed?" He was concerned as well about community opposition and the social workers input on the level 14 placements needed.

It was mentioned that DCS staff are willing to travel anywhere they have to for these placements to be located in our county. Honorable Dennis Hansberger mentioned how about using an existing facility or if the county got some property and did an RFP to contract the services? He suggested land the County already owns as a potential facility such as the property next to ARMC (Arrowhead Regional Medical Center) and property on Katella in Ontario. Another possibility is land by the new Juvenile Hall in the desert.

Kent Paxton mentioned that this idea had been proposed in the past as a proposal for a long-term lease agreement, short-term evaluation for two years and the county got two bidders, but there were drawbacks and it didn't happen.

A decision was made to pull together a discussion group from DBH, Probation, DCS, and County Schools to address the problems/solutions of creating a Level 14 Treatment facility. Carol Anselmi volunteered to get this discussion group off the ground and report back to this group.

7.0 Public Comment

8.0 Adjournment

Next Meeting: March 27, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Williams
Policy Council Recording Secretary